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AIR POUCH

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY, BRUSSELS

335  
RESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

October 19, 1954

REF : Basel Despatch 8, July 27, 1954

D100988

26 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	REC'D	IN F O
E-5-1 REP-2 00/R-2 EUR-5 ARA-4061-6 10-25 106M-10 FIA-10 TR-3 6SD-2 CIA-6		

SUBJECT: EXCON: SALES OF CHILEAN COPPER TO SOVIET BLOC

BERN BASEL-1 SANTIAGO-1 STOCKHOLM-1 ARMY-3 NAVY-3 AIR-3

The despatch under reference reported that the "Comptoir Commercial et Industriel du Brabant" (COCIMBRA), 20 Rue de l'Ecuyer, Brussels, has contracted to sell 7,500 tons of Chilean copper to "Arnold Siebermann", of Zurich, which is eventually to be diverted to Gdynia.

On August 4, this information was forwarded by the Embassy to the East-West Trade Section of the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Commerce. The Embassy has now received a note from the Ministry, dated October 14, 1954, which states that an investigation by the Belgian authorities has shown a sizable transit movement through Antwerp of Chilean copper to Poland and to the U.S.S.R. "COCIMBRA", this note states, does not appear to be involved in these or other copper shipments.

The substance of the Ministry's note is given below in translation: /x

Investigation has shown that since the month of August, more than 2,000 tons of Chilean copper has moved in transit through Antwerp towards Poland and the U.S.S.R.

This appears to be part of a huge transaction which is forwarded in the following way:

The copper, composed principally of "wire bars" and "electrolytic ingots", is shipped from Chile on board vessels which call regularly at the ports of Goteborg, Malmo and Ronnskar. From these ports, the metal is shipped in transit to Antwerp where it is transhipped directly on Polish vessels (Polskie Linie Oceaniczne) or Soviet vessels (Sovtorgflot).

The transit and handling at Antwerp are carried out by "Transports Internationaux", "P.S.A.L." and "Furness Shipping & Agency S.A."

E/T comment: See this document in Switzerland: Siebermann case folder. In

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From \_\_\_\_\_

In the investigation and after a check of shipping documents, it has not been possible, up to now, to learn the names of the persons or firms who are behind this operation.

The manifests and bills of lading do not give any indication of the amount of the freight, which was paid in advance, or of the name of the consignee. There was not even a clue in the way of a "notify".

As for the firm "COCIMERA", this company is not set up to handle a shipment of 7,500 tons.

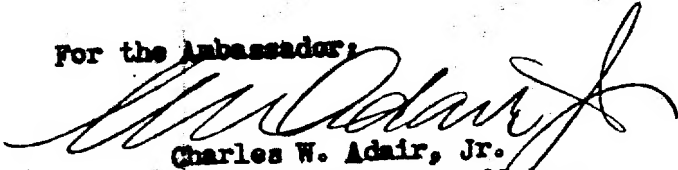
Mr. De Ryck, Administrator of "COCIMERA", states that he has never handled any non-ferrous metal shipments and insists that he knows nothing about any shipment of this nature.

The Swiss firm "Arnold Siebenmann-Byland" is located at 17 Weinbergstrasse, Zurich (residence of Mr. Siebenmann, a businessman, of 31 Rigiistrasse, Zurich). This Swiss firm does not appear to be known to the Antwerp forwarding houses.

This is all the information that we have been able to obtain from our investigation of the "COCIMERA" firm. Let me assure you that we are continuing to watch the movement of Chilean copper through Antwerp and I shall let you know any additional information that we obtain in this matter.

The Embassy notes that the Ministry does not in its note give any information, such as date of arrival, name of carrier, or date of transshipment, that would identify the 2,000 tons of copper which have already moved through Antwerp. The Embassy will forward any further information that it can obtain in this regard. It is possible, however, that these shipments have already been noted and reported by another Foreign Service post.

For the Ambassador:

  
Charles W. Adair, Jr.  
Counselor for Economic Affairs

cc: USRO, Paris (2); Antwerp

Department please pass copies to: Bern, Basel, Santiago, and Stockholm